



March 1, 2022

RE: Petition for Living History Flight Experience Exemption

Liberty War Bird Association, Inc.
500 Airport Road
Suite T
Lititz, PA 17543

The purpose of this petition is to request a Living History Flight Experience (LHFE) Exemption for the Liberty War Bird Association, Inc. (LWBA) from 14 CFR 91.9(a), 91.319(a)(2), 119.5(g) and 119.25(b). Granting this exemption will allow LWBA to operate UH-1H, N823LW, for the purpose of carrying passengers for compensation under the LHFE program in accordance with FAA policy posted on 7/21/2015, ID: FAA 2015-0517-0001. This petition explains how our policies and procedures meet the specific criteria of the LHFE program which provides the required Safety Risk Management (SRM) and Equal Level of Safety (ELoS).

LWBA is a 501 (c)(3), non-profit tax-exempt education organization with the following mission:

Honor the brave, and too often forgotten, men and women who are Vietnam Veterans. We have found that when vets first see our Huey it can be a very emotional experience and we have already given hundreds of Vietnam Vets opportunities to tell their untold stories. Our Licensed Clinical Social Worker, herself a Vietnam Vet, has trained all of our volunteers about how to best help those vets.

Educate the public about the Vietnam War and the vital role the UH-1 Huey helicopter played. As a new battlefield tool, the pilots and crews of this now iconic helicopter invented and developed innovative ways to use helicopters that are still in use today around the world. Techniques learned on the battlefields of Vietnam are saving civilian lives every day.

Restore a Vietnam Veteran UH-1H Huey helicopter back to flight status to serve as a living, flying, hands on museum to give current and future generations an opportunity to actually fly in the same aircraft that Vietnam Veterans flew in from 1968 to 1970. We can think of no better way to give the public a taste of what soldiers experienced in this very aircraft 50 years ago.

A. Background

In June of 2011, the Liberty War Bird Association (LWBA) was founded and incorporated in the state of Delaware and received approval as a 501 (c)(3) public charity from the Internal Revenue Service.

In April of 2015, LWBA purchased UH-1H, 66-16823 and began the process of restoring the aircraft to operational status. In March of 2018, LWBA received FAA registration as N823LW. In August of 2018, LWBA received our Experimental/Exhibition Special Airworthiness Certificate.

Through persistent fund raising and with the dedication of our volunteers, LWBA raised over \$500,000 and amassed over 15,000 maintenance hours during the course of the three-year restoration.

LWBA consists of approximately 30 active and retired Army aviators, crew chiefs, technical inspectors, avionics technician, and volunteer members from all walks of life. Our organization is housed in a 10,000 square foot hangar, which includes the necessary parts, special tools, and equipment to maintain the aircraft. All of our tools that need calibration are regularly calibrated.

B. Responsible Persons and Operational Control

The organization is structured as a corporation with a three-member Board of Directors, chaired by Michael P. Caimi. The combined main office and maintenance facility is located at Lancaster Airport. Key personnel are:

- President – Michael P. Caimi, FT2(SS), U.S. Navy
- Vice President – Alexis Lake, A&P / AI
- Director of Operations – Charles H. Schulze, COL (ret) U.S. Army
- Director of Maintenance – Kevin Schnetzka, SSG, U.S. Army
- Director of Quality Assurance – David B. Jones, GS13/SSG(ret) U.S. Army

The President is accountable to the Board of Directors and the Vice President and Directors are accountable to the President.

C. Basis for Our Request

The FAA has previously issued grants of exemption to similar organizations, such as the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation (AAHF) Exemption #10012; Friends of Army Aviation (FOAA) Exemption #10012E, flying the same aircraft, being maintained in a similar fashion, with the intent of preserving these historic aircraft to provide the public an opportunity to experience flights in them.

Liberty War Bird Association has created a formal system for Aircraft Maintenance, Operations, and Training based on United States Army Technical Manuals (TMs) Aircrew Training Manuals, in addition to Federal Aviation Regulations. Many of our volunteers are former U.S. Army instructor pilots, maintenance pilots, crew chiefs, technical inspectors, and maintainers who have been trained by the United States Army on the proper methods of operating and maintaining UH-1H aircraft. We also have experienced civilian Aircraft and Powerplant Mechanics (A&Ps) one of whom has an FAA Inspection Authorization (IA). We have an FAA Approved Inspection Program (AIP) which was granted in August of 2018.

Our pilots go through annual ground and flight training and qualifications. We have stringent minimum qualifications for our pilots. We verify their training and maintain records of their previous experience, FAA airman certificates, and ratings from the U.S. military. Pilots performing as pilot in command hold at least an FAA rotorcraft-helicopter commercial pilot certificate with instrument rating. Our director of standards is a former US Army rotary wing instructor pilot/instrument flight examiner who holds a current FAA flight instructor certificate with rotorcraft-helicopter and instrument helicopter ratings.

Our Technical Inspectors (TIs) and Crew Chiefs (CEs) were trained by the United States Army and have extensive years of experience. They go through annual recurrent training and testing. We verify their training and maintain records of their previous experience, licenses, and ratings from the FAA and the military.

Our volunteer maintainers who don't have extensive experience on UH-1H aircraft are trained and supervised by our TIs.

All flights are recorded, any discrepancies are documented along with the appropriate resolution using the same system of paperwork used by the United States Army.

All work done on the aircraft is documented and recorded using the same system developed and used by the United States Army. The appropriate TM and checklist are open and being actively referred to throughout all maintenance activities.

A current list of applicable Airworthiness Directives (AD Notes) is maintained, as well as how they were dealt with and, if repetitive, the next time action is due is tracked

All items identified by the United States Army, or the FAA as having timed maintenance, replacement, or inspection are tracked. Components that have time limits will be addressed per TM or FAA recommendation.

We use the same Phase Inspections (1-6) Program and special inspections as listed in the TM that applied to the UH-1H while in service in the United States Army. Phase one through six was accomplished and signed off prior to issuance of our Airworthiness Certificate.

Our aircraft has been certificated by the FAA in the experimental/exhibition category. As such LWBA will also perform a condition inspection performed in accordance with the scope and detail of Appendix D to Part 43. This inspection will be recorded in the aircraft maintenance records.

All aircraft inspections will be entered in the aircraft logbook and will be signed off by a person holding at least an A&P Certificate.

We look forward to your positive response to our petition.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michael P. Caimi
President
Liberty War Bird Association, Inc.